

SPROUL MAJORITY MAY SET RECORD

Additional Returns Increase Lead of Republican Candidate

HAS 222,810 PLURALITY

Kephart, With Heavy Vote in Western Counties, Heads for Supreme Court

Final election returns may give Senator William C. Sprout the largest majority ever received by a gubernatorial candidate in Pennsylvania.

Senator Sprout's lead over Judge Eugene C. Brouniff increases as additional returns are received. Early today the Governor-elect had a plurality of 222,810, with nearly 1200 districts of the State to be counted.

There seems to be little doubt that the two proposed amendments to the State Constitution have been adopted. Thirty-five of the sixty-seven counties show the following totals for the \$10,000,000 bond issue amendment.

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PHOTO BY MARRAS. SERGEANT J. G. LAMB

WALTON OPPOSES HIGHER TAX RATE

Controller Suggests Councilman Loan to Meet Increased Expenses

WILL NEED \$66,000,000 Levy for 1919 Budget Would Be \$2.43, Prohibitive Figure, He Says

Opposing an increase in the tax rate, Controller Walton, in his annual budget estimate, to be submitted to Council today, suggests a refundable loan to cover excess expenses.

Walton, in addition to suggesting the possibility of a refundable loan, which would not need the approval of the voters, calls attention to the fact that there cannot be any reduction in the rate if the war continues.

Walton also points out a serious feature of the war which leaves departments with a great deal of money on their hands, allowed at the present inflated prices for labor and material.

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THOUGHT WIFE RECOVERING; HOPE NOT ENDED FOR POWER LOAN

Man Declares Hospital, Refusing to Let Him See Her, Said She Was Better—Then He Learns She Died Three Weeks Ago

Every day for two weeks Joseph Matuszewski, 2115 Tilton street, had telephoned to the Municipal Hospital, Second and Laverne streets, and had been told his wife had recovered, was recovering, according to his statement.

Today he learned for the first time that his wife had died. He had been told she had recovered, but that he could not see her, he said. Each day while he was conversing he inquired, and when he was discharged two weeks ago he was again told he could not see her, he said.

Encouraged by the reports, he called the hospital every day by telephone and requested the same answer until yesterday.

When he was told there was "no record" there of her case he went to Sergeant Finn, who called the hospital and declared he was told the same story.

After calling several times, Finn learned that the wife was on the books of the hospital as having "died the night of October 12."

Matuszewski is a member of St. Adelbert's Catholic Church. He is a machinist.

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BAVARIA IN PANIC OVER FOOD SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Potatoes Becoming Exceedingly Scarce and Government Fears to Publish Conditions

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

PEACE AGENCIES WORK FOR CHINESE REUNION

Southern Belligerents Endure Prospect by Continuance of Hostilities

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC CO. MAY ASK AID OF FEDERAL ADMINISTRATOR

HURLEY REJECTS PLEA

Shipping Board Chief, However, Promises Further Discussion

Major Malcolm MacLaren, newly appointed electric power administrator for this city, may be asked to lend his aid to an effort to induce the shipping board to reconsider its rejection of a contract whereby the Emergency Fleet Corporation would lend \$6,000,000 to the Philadelphia Electric Company to complete its new power plant.

Major MacLaren has been in the interests of the war industries board, which is vitally concerned in maintaining an adequate supply of current.

After making a survey of the situation here last March he recommended a loan of \$14,000,000. Today he said he was still convinced the loan is a war necessity.

Refusal of the loan was announced in a letter received by Joseph H. McCall, president of the company, from Chairman E. N. Hurley, of the shipping board. Mr. McCall declined to say what would be the next move of the company.

McCall pointed out that the shipping board's statement that "the matter will be discussed further."

Must Have Loan, Says MacLaren

Solution of the city's power problem, now admittedly critical despite the slowing up of war orders due to the prospect of early peace, will depend upon the ability of the electric company to borrow money to complete its new plant at Beach and Palmer streets, said Major MacLaren today upon his return to his office in the Land Title Building after a brief visit to his home in Princeton, N. J.

MacLaren deplored a tendency on the part of some manufacturers here to become hysterical. Major MacLaren admitted that the power situation is very serious.

"We are running right on the ragged edge," he said. "We hope to keep on the safe side of the edge. It is inevitable that there will be some power plants now being operated here will break down under the tremendous strain any time."

MacLaren said that if it does happen, to designate which establishments shall have preference in being supplied with such power as is thereafter available.

War Contracts at Stake

The most disastrous effect which would result from such a collapse as he declared is possible would be the withdrawal from establishments in this district of government orders for war material and other orders involving hundreds of millions of dollars.

No stringent measures of conservation that would affect the small consumers of electric light and power in contemplation, Major MacLaren declared. Further curtailment of elevator service, street car stops, residence lighting, and other such measures were put into effect as fuel-saving measures, would not appreciably help the situation.

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FOOD ARMY WINS ITS FIRST VICTORY

Women Distribute 50,000 Circulars Over City in Few Hours

SIX THOUSAND IN RANKS

No Privates in Organization

Corporal Being the Lowest Grade

The women's food army of Philadelphia has won its first victory. The first action of the organization was the laying down of a barrage of 50,000 copies of an official circular setting forth the organization's aims and conservation suggestions.

This army, which has been in process of organization for several weeks, was mobilized yesterday. No privates are included in its membership of 6000. There are forty-eight lieutenants, one for each ward; 1200 sergeants and 4500 corporals.

The circulars were handed to the corporals yesterday at 1200 separate meetings. The circulars were handed to the corporals yesterday at 1200 separate meetings.

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